MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 APRIL 1982

Sinai Handover

Egyptian Takeover, Israeli Evacuation -- Egyptian military officials, representing President Husni Mubarak in the ceremonies marking the handover of the Sinai, raised their national flag in Rafah and Sharm ash-Shaykh on 25 April, according to a live broadcast by Cairo radio and a MENA report. Egypt also raised its flag over the Tiran and Sanafir Islands, MENA noted. Speaking at the Rafah ceremony, Maj Gen Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib said Egypt's flag will fly forever on its international border. Earlier that morning, the radio provided live coverage of the ceremony in Cairo in which Mubarak laid a wreath at the tomb of the late president, Anwar as-Sadat.

The IDF began its withdrawal from the Sinai the previous day, completing the process on 25 April, according to MENA. Egyptian administrators took over Sharm ash-Shaykh and its environs amid joyful demonstrations by Sinai villagers. MENA also reported that two of the three Sinai airports would be open to international civilian aircraft beginning on 25 April and that the other airport would open to aircraft of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO).

The IDF evacuated around 2,000 opponents of the withdrawal and demolished some 600 houses in the course of the evacuation of Yamit District, Jerusalem radio reported citing the evacuation commander. Kakh members, who had threatened suicide, were evacuated without harm. The radio also noted that before finally leaving the demolished town, members of the Movement To Stop the Withdrawal announced the establishment of a new political movement to retrieve the territories. The new party is called "Israel's Return."

Comment on Withdrawal, Peace Process -- In a message to the Egyptian and Israeli people, broadcast jointly by Cairo and Jerusalem televisions and radios, President Mubarak said the peace treaty represents an important step on the road to a comprehensive peace, which will have good effects in all parts of the Middle East. It sets an example for good relations between Israel and its neighbors on the basis of mutual respect and preservation of legitimate rights, he said. Mubarak called for further efforts to cultivate the peace process, to open new horizons for contact and communication and to strengthen the confidence of coming generations in a better future. Noting Egypt's human and financial sacrifices in its wars with Israel, Mubarak said Egyptians are determined that the October war will be the last war. They greet the Israeli people who have accepted the challenge of peace, he said, and appreciate the sincere assistance of friendly peoples, especially the Americans.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin's message, broadcast during the same program, noted that Israel has made many sacrifices for the peace treaty and stressed the need to make the peace last forever.

The 25 April Israeli Cabinet meeting was interrupted by a telephone call for Begin from Mubarak, who congratulated the Israeli leader on the evacuation of the Sinai and promised that peace will prevail forever between the two countries, Jerusalem radio reported.

In a television messaage to Egyptians, reported by MENA, Mubarak noted the difficult years before the return of the Sinai, during which an Egyptian could not smile or be happy while his land was occupied and his will was shackled. Speaking to journalists after a 25 April meeting of the Armed Forces Surpeme Council, Mubarak stressed that the Palestinian autonomy talks will definitely continue, MENA reported. In a statement reported by Cairo radio on 24 April, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali expressed hope that the canopy of peace will be spread over all the Middle East. This can be achieved only by guaranteeing the "natural, legitimate rights" of the Palestinian people, he said. 'Ali also said in a 25 April Cairo radio interview that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is working at full capacity to prepare for the next stage of diplomatic activity and will shortly contact the United States and Israel to agree on a date for the resumption of the autonomy talks. While reaffirming that Egypt welcomes the restoration of relations with Arab states provided they do not seek to impose conditions upon Egypt, he indicated that the resumption of relations is impossible within the framework of the Baghdad summit resolutions.

Commenting on the restoration of Egyptian sovereignty over the Sinai, Cairo's AS-SIYASI said the evacuation generates more confidence in Israeli pledges and inspires the possibility of continuing negotiations in order to ensure an overall peace for all people in the area, according to Cairo radio's press review. AL-AHRAM said Egyptians should feel "loyalty and gratitude" to As-Sadat, doing "justice to his renown against malicious talk" and putting him in his "appropriate place of prominence."

MENA carried several statements from world leaders congratulating Egypt on the return of the Sinai, including a message from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, who stressed that the "Zionist enemy" is still directing its guns at the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. The Arabs, whose divisions give the enemy the opportunity to be "haughty," must unite, he said.

Jerusalem radio said that in a telephone conversation with Begin, President Ronald Reagan congratulated the Israeli leader on completing the decisive part of the peace treaty and promised that the United States will stand on Israel's side in the future.

Tabah Dispute -- Israel and Egypt have reached final agreement over the method to solve the Tabah border dispute, Jerusalem radio reported. Under the agreement Israel will retreat to the border as conceived by Egypt and the Egyptians will station police up to the point Israel believes to be the border. Life will proceed normally in the disputed zone while a committee discusses the problem without any time limitation. The MFO will be responsible for security in the zone.

Monitored Egyptian media have not yet reported that agreement has been reached. In a press conference reported by MENA, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ali praised the U.S. role in narrowing Egyptian-Israeli differences over Tabah.

Israel

Sharon Statement, New Settlements -- Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said in a 25 April Order of the Day to the IDF that Israel has reached the limit of its concessions and will henceforth strengthen its security and reinforce and consolidate settlements in the Golan Heights, Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, the Ministerial Settlement Committee announced approval for the establishment of five new settlements in Judaea and Samaria and of an urban center in the northern Golan Heights, IDF radio noted. The Defense Ministry and the Zionist federation's settlement department have drawn up plans to expand the Jewish population in Judaea and Samaria to 70,000 within the next 3 years, according to DAVAR.

West Bank, Gaza Disturbances -- Security forces imposed a curfew on Tubas, Qabatiyah and Qalandiyah refugee camp after disturbances in these areas on 25 April, Jerusalem radio reported. A policeman was wounded when students tried to attack the Tubas police station and the IDF used teargas to break up the demonstrators, according to the radio. Security forces also broke up a demonstration by Rafah residents in connection with the town's redivision, the radio said. An inhabitant of Janin District was wounded the previous day when border police opened fire to disperse rioters, ITIM noted. Members of the banned National Guidance Committee called for a general strike in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza starting on 25 April, according to Jerusalem radio.

Mosad Chief -- The London SUNDAY TIMES reported that contrary to Sharon's wishes, Prime Minister Begin has appointed Maj Gen Yequti'el Adam as the new head of Mosad, HA'ARETZ noted.

Lebanon

Security Situation -- The IDF has continued to reinforce its forces in the Christian border strip, according to the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, while Voice of Lebanon radio said the Israelis have installed a missile network in the south. Meanwhile, Beirut radio reported that an Israeli force blew up a house in the southern village of Bra'shit. Voice of Hope radio said the terrorists violated the cease-fire by shelling Marj 'Uyun on 25 April while the Voice of Palestine cited an AS-SAFIR report that the IDF opened heavy machinegun fire from the border strip the same day. Voice of Palestine also claimed that Mosad has sent a squad to Beirut to assassinate Palestinian leaders.

Fighting between rival factions in Tripoli broke out anew on 23 April, but died down after security forces began patrolling the streets to enforce a cease-fire, Beirut radio reported. The radio said 13 people were killed and 21 wounded in the clashes in the city on 22 April. Meanwhile, a Communist Party official was assassinated in Beirut, according to the Voice of Lebanon. On 24 April, a bomb shattered the front door of the AFP office in Beirut, the agency noted. The explosion followed a telephone call to AFP from "friends of Carlos," who threatened to strike at French officials if any Arab is harmed or humiliated in France.

U.S. Ambassador on Raid -- U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon denied a charge by his Soviet counterpart that the recent Israeli raid on Lebanon had U.S. consent, Beirut radio noted.

PLO

'Arafat-Al-Qadhdhafi Meeting -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met in Libya with Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on 24 April, the Voice of Palestine radio reported. The latest developments in the area, including the Israeli air attack on Lebanon, were reviewed.

PLO Official, PFLP-GC on Cease-Fire -- Israel has always tried to get rid of the Lebanese cease-fire agreement because it is a burden on it, Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, stated in an interview broadcast by Monte Carlo radio. The Palestinians know how, when and where to reply to Israeli attacks, he added. The PLO has studied this matter and has made the appropriate decision, Al-Wazir remarked.

Meanwhile the Kuwaiti office of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command called for a review of the cease-fire decision on Lebanon's border, according to a front statement reported by the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA'. The statement called for the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement to respond decisively and firmly to the recent Israeli air attack on Lebanon.

Cairo PLO Office -- The PLO does not at this time intend to reopen its office in Cairo, according to a Palestinian source cited by Voice of Palestine radio. The source denied that any contact exists between the PLO and Egypt. Earlier, an Arab diplomatic source stated that the PLO would open an office in Ciaro to handle issues relating to occupied Arab territories, according to AFP.

Iraq

Talks on War -- Three ranking Iraqi officials have gone to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan and Guinea to hold talks on the Iran-Iraq war, INA reported. A verbal message outlining Iraq's position on the war was conveyed by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, according to INA. Later, 'Aziz outlined Iraq's military and political position on the war at a meeting in Jordan with King Husayn, Amman television reported. Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim ad-Duri, who delivered a message from President Saddam Husayn, SPA reported. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Alwan will deliver to Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure a message from President Husayn regarding the Islamic Good Offices Committees' peace mission and efforts to settle the war with Iran in conformity with Iraq's readiness to establish peace in the region, according to INA.

Husayn on Iran, Syria -- Iraq will not allow anyone, be it Iran or anyone else, to humiliate its people, army and land, President Husayn stated at a meeting with Kuwaiti editors, Baghdad radio reported. Iranian designs will not stop at Iraq's border, therefore, Iraq must fight until the last bullet and the last drop of blood, Husayn added. The Syrians are mistaken if they think that halting the flow of oil will demoralize the Iraqis, Husayn also noted.

Syrian Airspace Violation -- A Syrian military helicopter entered Iraqi airspace on 25 April in northwestern Iraq, INA reported citing a military source. This was the third violation of Iraqi airspace by a Syrian aircraft in 2 weeks, INA noted.

Iran

Security Situation -- At least 50 counterrevolutionaries were killed and another 100 wounded on 24 April in clashes with government forces near the towns of Baneh and Sar Dasht, IRNA reported. In another development, 50 counterrevolutionaries were killed and a number of others wounded in Kordestan when their positions came under the fire of security forces, according to IRNA.

Coup Plot -- Ayatollah Kazem Shari'atmadari is under house arrest for his alleged involvement in a plot against Iran, AFP reported. His house is under surveillance and he may not freely communicate with people, Prosecutor General Musavi-Tabrizi stated at a press conference reported by AFP. All available documents clearly show he endorsed the plot, the prosecutor stated, according to IRNA.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Leader -- Engineer 'Ali Zarkesh has been selected to lead the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization in Iran, according to a statement by Mojahedin leader Mas'ud Rajavi, reported by the clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio. Zarkesh was assigned the position after the death of Musa Khiabani, who was second in command of the Mojahedin-e Khalq.

Afghanistan

Rebel Offensive -- Nearly 10,000 Afghan rebels are attempting to capture the border city of Khowst in Paktia Province, AFP reported on 24 April citing Afghan sources.

Counterrevolutionaries Captured -- Sixty-seven "counterrevolutionaries" were captured in Qandahar Province recently, Kabul radio reported.

Soviet Helicopter Downed -- Afghan rebels recently downed a Soviet helicopter that was bombing rebel bases in Herat Province, according to the office of the Afghan Muslim mujahidin in Zahedan, IRNA reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KESHTMAND RECEIVES SOVIET CONSTRUCTION DELEGATION

LD222344 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Apr 82

[Text] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, today received a high-ranking delegation of the Soviet State Committee for Construction Affairs. Engineer Nazar Mohammad, minister of public works, attended the meeting.

At the meeting views were exchanged concerning the expansion of friendly links between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand expressed gratitude for the extensive and selfless aid of the great, fraternal USSR.

Delegation Ends Visit

LD252010 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Text] The high-ranking delegation of the USSR State Committee for Construction Affairs, led by the committee's deputy chairman, which paid a friendly and official visit to Kabul at the invitation of the Ministry of Public Works, left Kabul today for home.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul International Airport by engineer Nazar Mohammad, minister of public works, heads of department of this ministry, and the plenipotentiary counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

During its stay in Kabul, the high-ranking Soviet delegation held discussions about construction affairs concerning the two countries and concluded a protocol in this respect.

According to another report, the Soviet delegation attended a reception yesterday evening which was given in the Ariana Hotel by the minister of public works in honor of the delegation.

The reception was attended by vice chairmen of the Council of Ministers, members of the Council of Ministers, high-ranking officials of ministries and members of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

AGREEMENT SIGNED ON NEW FACILITIES FOR USSR

GF201643 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 20 Apr 82

[Text] The agreement on 3 (?acres) of land at Mazar-e Sharif, the center of Balkh Province, in the north of the country, for the construction of the building and the complexes of general consulting and economic consulting offices and the office of the trade representative of the Soviet Union was concluded today between the Government of DRA and the Soviet Union. While Shah Mohammad Dost, the foreign minister, was present, the agreement was signed for the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan by the president of the construction and planning bank and then for the Soviet Union by Fikryat Tabeyev, the Soviet ambassador in Kabul.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR LAO PARTY CONGRESS

GF221635 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 22 Apr 82

[Text] On the invitation of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos, a party delegation headed by Niaz Mohammad Momand, secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and chairman of the economic branch of the Central Committee of the party, left for Laos to participate in the third congress of the said party.

AFP: REBELS LAUNCH OFFENSIVE TO CAPTURE KHOWST

BK240047 Hong Kong AFP in English 0006 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] Islamabad, 24 April (AFP) -- Nearly 10,000 Afghan fighters are attempting to capture the border city of Khowst in Paktia Province, anti-communist Afghan sources here and in Islamabad have announced.

They said the offensive is intended to protect a path over the border from Miram Shah, Pakistan, that is one of the main supply lines to anti-communist resistance forces in a number of provinces.

The Soviet-Afghan garrison at Khowst had been relatively passive until now, but Soviet reinforcements arrived a week ago to threaten the path. Altogether, about a division of Soviet soldiers arrived recently along the 150 kilometre (100 mile) border from Parachinar, Pakistan, to Miram Shah to block rebel supply lines, resistance spokesmen said.

Reinforcements facing Parachinar and at Khowst were harassed as soon as they arrived and several Soviet soldiers have been captured, the sources affirmed.

They said the drive against Khowst was being carried out by three non-fundamentalist Islamic parties and by men of Mullah Jallalludin reinforced by many warriers of the Jaji and Mengal tribes who had taken refuge in Pakistan.

"We have opened up our armories at Miram Shah to equip refugees eager to join the attack," said a spokesman of Sayed Ahmed Gailani's Islamic National Front. The path from Miram Shah was crowded with mujahidin determined to force their way into Khowst.

Three tanks and a column of Afghan Government vehicles had been knocked out, he said, and firing around Khowst, a town of 50,000, could be heard in Miram Shah, several hours' walk distant.

Another goal of the offensive was for the Jaji and Mengal tribes to recover the rich farm-land around Khowst that they gradually abandoned as they took refuge in camps around Miram Shah.

Observers noted it would be as difficult for the mujahidin to attack strong concentrations of Soviet troops as it is for the latter to maintain lasting control in Paktia's mountains.

AFP: REBELS HANG LOCAL COMMUNIST OFFICIAL

BK251703 Hong Kong AFP in English 1658 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Text] Islamabad, April 25 (AFP) -- Afghan guerrillas hanged a local communist leader in Basawal area of Nangarhar Province, eastern Afghanistan, last week, a spokesman of the Hezb-e Eslami resistance group reported from Peshawar today.

The official, named as Zar Shah, was seized by guerrillas of the group from a bus near Basawal on the Jalalabad-Peshawar highway, the spokesman said.

After a summary trial he was hanged and his body was later found by government troops and was given a ceremonial burial, the spokesman said.

"Some Soviet officers also attended the funeral", he said.

Last month the resistance group executed a top Soviet adviser, M.Y. Okrimyuk, 68, whom they had been holding for seven months.

RAO CALLS FOR TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM KAMPUCHEA

BK241219 Hong Kong AFP in English 1648 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] New Delhi, 23 Apr (AFP) -- India today stressed the need for relieving the buildup of tension in Southeast Asia by calling for a comprehensive political settlement of the Kampuchean problem, envisaging the withdrawal of all foreign troops from that country and ensuring its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao said the 1981 Nonaligned Foreign Ministers' Conference here had agreed that such a political solution was needed. A settlement like this could serve as a starting point for de-escalating tension in the region and for negotiations between the countries involved, he said, inaugurating the Indian centre for studies in Indochina.

He said that this de-escalation was necessary as "attempts were being made to intensify the civil war in the region by foreign intervention and competitive activities of the great powers."

He said India was anxious to restore peace, stability and security to Southeast Asia and in addition it strongly defended the Indian recognition of Kampuchea.

Mr. Rao said the recent exchange of visits between regional leaders and India had helped to develop cooperation in different fields between India and the region. Through these exchanges "we have tried to share our technology developed over the years with the countries of Indochina."

He suggested similar exchanges between the countries of South Asia to their mutual benefit.

On his recent visit to Vietnam, Mr. Rao said, the two countries had then resolved to work together to strengthen bilateral ties in a systematic way by identifying new areas of cooperation and that an Indian delegation, which had since toured that country, had prepared a detailed strategy for sharing of technology and other resources.

He also called for increasing cultural exchanges between the peoples of the region and India so that they could benefit from the richness of each other's civilisation.

ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS HELD WITH ALGERIA

BK241401 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] It has been decided to reactivate the Indo-Algerian planning group. It is expected to meet in New Delhi before June. The All-India Radio correspondent reports that the group will assist Algeria in the planning process. It will also help in drawing up a long-term plan for economic cooperation between the two countries. The decision to reactivate the group is one of the results of the current talks between India and Algeria.

Visiting Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid had another round of talks with Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi in New Delhi today. The discussion lasted about 1 hour. No aides were present.

Foreign ministers of the two countries Narasimha Rao and Ben Yahia also had a meeting. Our correspondent reports that the Iran-Iraq war again figured in the discussion. They are also understood to have talked about the Afghanistan situation as well as the developments in the subcontinent and in the Gulf region.

Our correspondent understands that two documents will be issued tomorrow at the end of the Algerian president's visit. Interestingly, while the joint communique will deal with international and regional matters, there will be a joint statement on the development of economic cooperation.

Communique Issued

BK240810 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Text] India and Algeria have strongly deplored the strengthening of the military base at Diego Garcia and the increasing escalation of the superpower military presence in the Indian Ocean region. The two countries have agreed on the need to intensify speedy implementation of the UN resolution declaring Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

They said intensified military activities in the Indian Ocean and further acquisition of facilities and strengthening of Diego Garcia base can lead to new conflict.

In a joint communique issued in New Delhi today at the end of the 4-day visit to India of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, the two sides called for a global policy on detente and relaxation of international tension. It said the nonaligned remained the only alternative to the present global crisis and stressed that the nonbloc character of the movement is more than ever essential and a responsible element in the international life.

The two sides expressed the desire to continue to make all efforts for the success of the seventh nonaligned summit scheduled for September this year in Baghdad.

During the discussions between Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, the two sides reviewed the situation in West Asia, Southern Africa and the Western Sahara.

India and Algeria have agreed to pursue vigorously their bilateral economic cooperation. The joint statement issued at the end of the visit of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid said India has agreed to meet the Algerian request for assistance in the fields of scientific research, industry, hydraulics, industrial infrastructures, agriculture, higher education and health. Particular emphasis was placed by both countries on promotion of cooperation in the field of engineering, considered by the two sides as a major sector for transfer of technology. The two sides also called for urgent measures for greater South-South cooperation to combat the new difficulties created by the reluctance of developed nations to transfer technology to the developing countries.

Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid left New Delhi this morning for Beijing at the conclusion of his 4-day state visit to India. He was seen off at the airport by President Sanjiva Reddy, Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, her Cabinet collegaues, senior officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

President Sanjiva Reddy and Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi have accepted invitations to visit Algeria. The invitations were extended by President of Algeria Chadli Bendjedid.

MUSAVI PRESS CONFERENCE ON FOREIGN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

LD252056 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Press conference given in Tehran on 25 April by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi; correspondents not identified -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [question indistinct]

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This matter has various dimensions. Of course, matters relating to various dimensions of the plot have been made available by the brother officials particularly concerned as well as by various strata of the nation. As you know, the issue has a political dimension as well as being related to the issue of the sources of imitation and the question of the clergy. I would like to make some remarks on both these matters.

The political-military plot, as has been mentioned by the esteemed speaker of the Majlis, was an extremely shaky plot -- an extremely childish plot with very primitive plans. The reason behind this plot must be sought in the plotters' lack of appreciation of our nation and our people and of the power of the people's determination for a better life. If we look at the overall picture of the matter we will realize that they have not learned about the might of Islam. Not only this plot but even a much more extensive plot hatched by them would have certainly been defeated, thanks to the attitude of our people and to God's benediction.

The point concerning the clergy and sources of imitation lies in the fact that we should separate the institution. This applies to all institutions in principle. Institutions are always independent of individuals. You can, for example, look at the administrative institutions, to the educational institutions and to the institutions that came about following the revolution.

When we speak about individuals we are not referring to institutions. Naturally, what is raised in connection with Shari'atmadari is a case in point. What is a source of regret with regard to Shari'atmadari, and what has caused the superpowers to invest heavily in this matter, is the fact that there is a pure, sincere and religious affection between our people and the sources of imitation. This is a heartfelt affection, divorced from material considerations.

If we look at the power of this affection and this spiritual power during the revolution we will realize the great role this has among our nation. It is natural for the superpowers to be aware of this fact. They know full well about this from the example of the tobacco import concession [reference to turn-of-the-century opposition by the mullahs to granting tobacco import concession to a British businessman] and other even more important, more significant examples of this in the course of our revolution.

If there should be a deviant person in such a situation among the clergy it would be natural that their attention would be focused on the matter. This is why Bakhtiar should be complaining in Paris about Shari'atmadari being insulted, and so on and so forth. That is why Amini, the devotees of America, the devotees of Israel and all the imperialist radios raise their voice in protest. They know what a great base they are losing in this regard, and what is being exposed. This, too, is one of the miracles of our revolution. It proves that the course of truth is deeply rooted in our society.

In connection with Shari'atmadari, the superpowers were relying on yet another matter which I think would be useful to mention here. They were under the impression that the Azarbayjanis regarded him as a source of imitation, attributing a nationalist dimension to this. They thought his following was based on feelings of nationalism. But, of course, they did not know the truth because they are blind and ignorant about matters.

They do not realize that among our nation the matter of belief in religious authorities and the matter of Islam have always subordinated and overcome the issue of nationalism. That is why no Shirazi, Tehrani or citizen of other cities would follow the religious ruling of a person merely because he comes from the same city.

[Question] Mr Musavi, recently we have witnessed a range of friendly ties and trade accords between Iran and other countries. Could you give us your views on this and on the overall policy that Iran is pursuing in this regard?

[Answer] In order to answer this question several other questions should be answered. One of them is whether the wheat, the sugar and the food we import should be imported from Canada, Britain or France, or from a Third World country. Further, would it be better to import such things from a Muslim Third World country or from a non-Muslim country. The answer is that the more we divert our trade and economic ties away from the big powers and channel them through the Third World countries, the greater the benefit to these nations and to our nation. It would also help us to break our economic dependence on the superpowers and big powers.

[Question] Mr Musavi, my (?next) question is about the war. These days the Western press -- especially the American press -- has started printing facts about the war. But, when reading the articles by Western reporters, one sees that they are creating fear of Iran's power among the countries of the region, such as the shaykhdoms in the Persian Gulf. Do you not think that the creation of fear is a policy being followed by the Westerners [words indistinct]?

[Answer] I have spoken on this subject before. The (?fears) that they are talking about are in fact America's fears about the issue -- the fears of the superpowers and the fears of the Western powers of these victories, because this victory would strongly endanger the interests of the West in the region and turn Islam into a great and determining power on the international scene. It is natural for them to try to create this fear among small countries around Iran in order to (?reverse) the atmosphere for Iran's decisive victory and prevent it. [sentence as heard] But, we have repeatedly and formally declared that we have no enmity toward small countries [words indistinct]. I said during my speech on [date indistinct] that these countries and the governments ruling them should fear America, not us.

One point I should make here: Those countries that are helping Iraq should know that our government has an accurate account of all their help to Iraq. One day they will -- and should -- be answerable to our nation and all the Muslim nations in the region, and to their own nations, for the great deal of help -- be it financial or arms -- they have given Iraq. We cannot close our eyes to those ships that are unloaded in Kuwaiti ports, (?the weapons from which) are loaded onto trucks bound for Iraq by way of unknown routes. One day Kuwait will be answerable for this. We have repeatedly told that country that Iraq's danger to you is great: It covets the Bubiyan Islands; it wants to rule over you. Our government is prepared to support you; there is no reason why you should fear. There is no reason why you should fear Saddam's regime; do not fear the [word indistinct] of Saddam's regime inside your country. But, unfortunately, we see that they are entwining their fate with that of Saddam's, and that is not be in the interests of those countries.

[Question] My (?next) question is about the delegation that [words indistinct] this afternoon; the North Korean premier, heading a high-ranking delegation, is coming to Tehran. Would you tell us your (?views) on this visit and [words indistinct]?

[Answer] From the outset of the war, we had dealings with a few countries who -- in spite of the general atmosphere that was created throughout the world -- supported us in this war with [words indistinct] policies. Their number is less than a handful.

One of these countries is North Korea, which has a relatively [word indistinct] policy among the Eastern bloc countries, and who took a decisive stance regarding the issue of the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, to such an extent that relations between Iraq and that country were severed [words indistinct] because of North Korea's relations with us.

[question indistinct]

[Answer] We have always welcomed [words indistinct], to sincerely show them our wish for the reestablishment of peace in the region and to show that it is the great powers and Saddam's regime who do not want peace, and to show that our nation has suffered an injustice, that it is our country that has been aggressed against, that it is our lands that are in the hands of the aggressive regime of Saddam. This is the result of all the comings and goings, in our view. [sentence as heard] The conditions that we put forward have not changed [words indistinct].

[Question] [Words indistinct] said they intend to divert our nation's attention away from the issue of the war against the aggressive and pagan Ba'thist regime [words indistinct]. Would your please tell us your views on this matter?

[Answer] In fact, although we have not had a military presence on the borders of occupied Palestine, our revolutionary system has dealt the biggest blows possible at the Zionist regime from a political viewpoint, from the point of view of neutralising Zionist and imperialist plots in the region. That is, from the beginning our revolution has helped the Palestinian nation and all the Islamic world to continue the struggle against Zionism. Our uncompromising foreign policy concerning Israel is (?in the form of) assistance by us in connection with Zionism. [passage indistinct] As we have said before, under the present circumstances we are prepared to place our military forces alongside all the Syrian, southern Lebanese and Palestinian combatants to fight against the Zionist regime. As soon as the slightest opportunity is given to us, our combatants [words indistinct] will definitely take part in this war.

[question indistinct]

[Answer] Well, the American activities inside the country are speedly supressed and eliminated. All these are indicative of the firm establishment of the Islamic Republic in our country. Meanwhile, there have been other developments in this respect last week. Of course, the first and the most important one was that relating to the issue of Mr Qotbzadeh and Mr Shari'atmadari. As the chief of the military tribunal said, the elimination of this base was very important. If you carefully examine the confessions revealed by the papers in this respect, you will realize the important role played by Mr Shari'atmadari. [Words indistinct] in connection with the freeing of Baneh-Sar Dasht road which can be described as a great victory for our combatant forces.

You should realize that following the victory of our forces in Dezful, the Western media started to speak of victories achieved by leftist groups and the Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP]. Abdorrahman Qasemlu went to Paris and held press conferences stating that Kordestan was on the verge of becoming liberated, etc.

In order to emphasize the importance of the issue, I should also mention that Qasemlu is allied to Bani-Sadr and Rajavi's so-called national resistance movement. His association with this movement now proves the claims put forward a long time ago by the Iranian press concerning Qasemlu's link with Bani-Sadr. Simultaneously with Qasemlu's claims, we destroyed the counterrevolution's most important fortification in Kordestan: the recapturing of Baneh-Sar Dasht road which for a long time had been under the KDP's control. And our forces are now stationed in the most strategic points in Kordestan. It is natural that following this development, and the fact that our Kurdish brothers were able to get rid of these criminals, they can now participate in the task of reconstructing the country along with the rest of the nation.

The third issue is one which has been like an old wound in [word indistinct]. That is the issue of the tribal chieftains among the oppressed Muslim people of Qashqa'i. A number of chieftains were still dreaming of the past within their boundaries. We advised these chieftains and told them of the futility of the path they had been pursuing. They thought the country was at war and [words indistinct] and had set up resistance camps. Whenever we spoke to them they claimed to have in their possession ordinary arms, used for hunting game. We told them you do not need a camp equipped with mortars to hunt game.

Finally, it was decided to get rid of this infectious nest. The gentlemen were warned. We pursued the same policy and principles of our school of thought. We offered them safe-conduct. We told them of our information that there were people in their camp [word indistinct] who should be tried in accordance with religious laws. Those who are innocent should surrender their arms and follow their usual way of life, because RPG-7's belong to the armed forces. We gave them safe-conduct, simultaneously with a warning.

Those brothers who had gone to convey the safe-conduct and to deliver our warning told them the Qashqa'i tribal chiefs that it would be in the interest of the country and their own interest as well to stop. When the envoys finished speaking, the sprayed our envoys with bullets, injuring one, arresting the other and one fled. The one arrested may by now have been martyred.

Following this, our forces kept their promise and respected the few hours they had been given to surrender, in spite of heavy fire mounted by the tribesmen. Later, our forces launched their attack and now I can say that the issue of tribal chieftains has ended forever in Shiraz.

This is a warning to all the rebels. If they act against the law, the law will break their necks and the government under no circumstances will tolerate any misconduct and disrespect of the law in any part of the country. We continue with our policy of advising first and if ignored will use force to suppress any move and action against the law. All of us are free within the framework of the law, within the religious law and the Koran's directives. There is no reason for centers of power and a central government. A government elected by the people and promoted on the basis of Islamic concepts does not have centralization and no one can take the law into his own hands. There is law for everyone and every group's activities. Whoever acts within the framework of the law is free to carry out whatever he wishes, and whoever wants to oppose the law and to stand against the regime will be severely suppressed.

The two events which took place last week, one in relation to the so-called coup plot [words indistinct] proves our people's determination to firmly counter such events. This also shows that at the time when we are engaged in a serious war on our southern and western frontiers we have such might to suppress any conspiracy anywhere in our country, with the blessing of God and the support of the people and their presence on the scene.

Further Details

LD251506 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, this morning Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi held a press conference, which was attended by domestic journalists, and answered their questions on various issues.

In reply to the question put to him by one of the newsmen: What is your opinion on the conspiracy which was hatched by the foreigners and elaborated by Qotbzadeh? Mr Musavi said: The plan hatched by Qotbzadeh and his fellow conspirators was very infantile. If we ignore the childish aspects of this treacherous plot, what surprises me is how Qotbzadeh was sure that he could rule over the people if he succeeded in implementing his shabby aims. The nation has recognized the faces of people like him and is aware of the issues relating to aliens and non-Islamic issues.

When a nation which has risen up for the sake of values finds these lofty values crystallized in a person, it follows him; but when it finds inhuman values in a person, even if this person is clad in a holy clerical robe, the nation rejects him and pushes him from the scene forever.

We must separate the issue of the clerical institution from individual clergymen. The clergy is a firm and resistive fortress against colonialism. In this matter our nation is faced with a few deviationist pseudoclergymen, not with the clerical institution, and Shari'atmadari and his followers are of such a kind. A clergyman who gives in to his whims and wishes naturally lacks the aims of the clerical institution and must be dealt with as a deviationist.

To sum up the issue in a word, the clerical institution cannot move toward the American policies and cannot be a (?pulpit) for notorious individuals and for bankrupt issues, both before and after the revolution; but Shari'atmadari and people like him can.

I have listened to a recording of this person's speeches and I am sorry for those who used to follow him, because I know hundreds of my acquaintances who used to follow him with love and enthusiasm, because they considered him a religious leader. They also became emotionally involved with their religious leader.

I remember after the death of Ayatollah Borujerdi, whenever I went to the house of a fellow citizen of mine, I saw the portrait of this person on one side and the portrait of the imam on the other; but when a person, in any position, does not respond properly to the people's trust and religious feelings, that enthusiasm is replaced not only by indifference but also by revulsion.

People cannot sit back and see Islam and the believers being played with. They do not want to see their support for Islam being used as a ladder for somebody's advancement. People may forgive a hat-wearing man who has deviated from the path of virtue but they do not forgive a clergyman who is wearing a robe of the prophet of God. What matters to the people is Islam.

In Tabriz, at school and at home they used to ask us: Why do you like the great prophet? We used to answer: For the sake of God; that is, our love for the beloved and great prophet, for perfect and innocent man, originated from devotion to God and it still does.

Of course, America and its servants think the opposite. They think that they can still create a crisis in the country by relying on blasphemous nationalist and ethnic motives; but if our Muslim nation, including our Azarbayjani brothers and sisters, follows a religious leader, it is not because he is their fellow citizen. This American thought is exactly like the opinion of those Orientialist spies who say that the Iranians became Shi'ites because the mother of the fourth imam was the eldest daughter of Yazdgerd III, who was Iranian; that is, they raise the reactionary issue of nationalism for any movement. Now, judgment is left to the people themselves.

Anyway, everybody has his own recollections about the Shari'atmadari case. Further to what has been said so far -- and will certainly be talked about more in the future -- when I was in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs I saw onerous documents in the secret archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about him, upon which I can testify, including when, in the middle of the revolution and the rise of the people's Islamic movement, the envoy of the city of Marrakesh, with the Iranian ambassador in Iraq as a go-between, came to see him. Well, a person who sees this document will, if nothing else, wonder what business can Shah Hassan [of Morocco] have with a Shi'ite leader? Unless we imagine Shah Hassan is a person who wants to offer him his religious tax.

In reply to a question concerning the fact that a Kuwaiti newspaper article said that the sheykhdoms are reviewing an increase in financial aid to Iraq, Mr Musavi said: I have said before that Saddam's criminal regime is in its last days and that aid such as is given by Jordan and, primarily, America, cannot save this dying patient.

Regarding the sheykhdoms, I hope that this news is not true; we do not wish to see the destiny of these rulers, whose subjects number less than the population of one of our provinces, linked with Saddam's destiny. I do not know what will happen if one day we tell the people the statistics on the aid given by Kuwait to the dependent regime ruling Iraq.

Regarding the holding of the nonaligned conference in Baghdad, considering the present situation and the breach of the principles of nonalignment by Iraq, Mr Musavi said: We hope that the war will have finished by then, otherwise Baghdad will not be a suitable venue for this conference and there will not be any security for the conference there. If the war continues until then, and if they still insist on holding the conference in Baghdad, the Nonaligned Movement will face a great defeat in its history from which it will be unable to recover. In my opinion the gathering of the nonaligned heads of state in Baghdad is equivalent to the destruction of many of the Nonaligned Movements ideas.

In reply to the question: Some of the nonaligned countries have suggested that if the war continues until then a temporary cease-fire should be declared for the holding of the conference, what is your opinion on this? He said: As long as one inch of our country's territory is in the hands of the Saddamist invaders and as long as the Iraqi regime does not give in to our just conditions there can be no cease-fire.

In reply to the question: Will the Iraqi Goverment be able to pay for the damages to Iran? Mr Musavi said: The spiritual losses inflicted upon us by the aggression cannot be regained, but regarding material losses we know that the Saddamist regime is in poverty but it is not only Saddam who fights against us; those who can afford to place billions of dollars at Saddam's disposal can afford to pay for the war damages, inflicted with their own encouragement. I am sure that they can calculate well and know that nobody can joke with our country and nation.

DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING SHARI'ATMADARI

Council of Guardians Spokesman

LD232120 Tehran IRNA in English 1955 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] Tehran, 23 Apr (IRNA) -- The spokesman of the Council of Guardians, Ayatollah Khazali, said in Tehran today that Shari'atmadari, now under charges of treason and subversive activities, had been in close contact with SAVAK, the secret police of the past regime. Ayatollah Khazali said that once during the past regime he had been to the house of Shari'atmadari, telling him that the ulema had been ready for a decisive struggle against the former regime. He said on the next day he was arrested by SAVAK and detained for two days, and realised later that Shari'atmadari had been in contact with SAVAK.

The ayatollah also cited other experiences of the ulema with Shari'atmadari, which indicated the latter's thoroughly conservative approach to the past (?regime). The spokesman of the Council said that during the past regime Imam Khomeyni persistently denied requests by the agents of the past regime for private meetings with him, on the principle that he did not ever have any private or personal matters to discuss with any official; while on the other side, Shari'atmadari would always willingly welcome private meetings with them.

He said in the wake of the bloody encounter between Muslim strugglers and the ex-shah's forces on June 5, 1963, and Iraqi Muslim leader, Ayatollah Hakim, had sent a cable of sympathy to the Iranian ulema, while the past regime immediately threatened the ulema in Iran against responding to the cable. Khazali said Mr Shari'atmadari had cowered before the agents of the past regime and refused to reply to the cable while Imam Khomeyni immediately responded to the cable in defiance of the then ruling regime.

He also noted that many times during the hectic days of the Islamic revolution, members of the ulema had urged Shari'atmadari to publish announcements and communiques in protest against the killing of Muslim strugglers by men of the ex-shah throughout the country or on other occasions marking the martyrdom of other strugglers, and that invariably every time he had shunned this task, and thereby endorsed the mass killings and the tyranny of the past regime.

He said Shari'atmadari had been deceived about factual trends in the country because he always "preferred to stay indoors, and shun any meeting with revolutionary people." He said as a result of his mininformation he had formed a mudjudgment which eventually prompted him into uniting with subversive elements.

KEYHAN Publishes Evidence

LD242120 Tehran IRNA in English 1940 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] Tehran, 24 Apr (IRNA) -- "I wish that his imperial majesty (the ex-shah) would show more patience and tolerance against these difficulties." This statement has not been made by the U.S. ambassador to Iran. It is rather a quotation from a person who had masqueraded as a religious authority (marja') of the world's Shi'a Muslims, for many years and who, according to the Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani, had treatises too. Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari, on Sept 23rd, 1978, in a meeting with General Moqaddam, the chief of SAVAK, the ex-shah's intelligence organisation, and at a time when the 36 million Muslims of Iran were strongly calling for the downfall of the corrupt Pahlavi regime in Iran, is quoted as saying "I wish that his imperial majesty..."

According to a document printed in today's issue of the evening Persian daily KEYHAN, the political-religious stands of a person is disclosed, who seemed to have heard none of the voices of this 36 million Muslim nation. Only less than two weeks since the bloody massacre in Tehran's downtown Shohada (Martyrs) Square of the Muslim people of Tehran (by the ex-shah's security forces), the one time ayatollah advises the shah and his prime minister thus: "The declaration of the martial law was a useful and valuable measure and should remain in force. I explicitly announce and want that his imperial majesty and the premier be informed that it would be better for them to prolong the period of the martial law as much as possible..."

What about Shari-atmadari's reception of the ex-shah's envoy and the chief of the shah's security organisation? Was he forced to receive the SAVAK chief? The following phrase has been taken from a report by the SAVAK:

"Ayatollah Shari'atmadari very sincerely and open-facedly did not hide his pleasure over the meeting. Also he has a pro-regime stand..."

And here in the following columns you will read some other statements made by Shari'atmadari, taken from "secret" SAVAK documents:

"I told the representatives of King Hassan that all my efforts were to preserve the position of monarchy."

"One of the bases of opposition to the monarchical regime is An-Najaf, which I am hundred percent against this base." (An-Najaf is a leading centre of Shi'a religious learning).

"It is said that Khomeyni and I have one difference. I say yes, he is against the shah while I am not..."

And finally, his view about the release of political prisoners who fought against the ex-shah's regime:

"I do not believe that all of the prisoners should be released. Release those who you are sure that they would not make instigations after release..." And he immediately stressed that "do not release those particularly, who are against the monarch..."

U.S. Embassy Documents

LD242108 Tehran IRNA in English 1915 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] Tehran, 24 Apr (IRNA) -- In the aftermath of the disclosure of Kazem Shari'atmadari's participation in the Qotbzadeh coup plot foiled recently, and also after the request of the Majlis speaker in yesterday's Friday prayers to the Muslim students following the line of Imam Khomeyni, to publish any documents on Shari'atmadari, the daily ETTELA'AT printed in its Sat. April 24th, issue some documents which were already printed in book 3 of the documents of the U.S. den of espionage obtained by the students.

In the first document, dated September 1st, 1979, Shari'atmadari said to the U.S. Embassy officer that Iran needed U.S. help to counter the Soviet threat and hoped for the betterment of the U.S.-Iran relations based on mutual respect. In the meeting, the U.S. officer noted that Shari'atmadari was glad to see a representative of the U.S. Government. In another meeting between Shari'atmadari and then U.S. Ambassador to Iran Sullivan, the former hoped that the U.S. would not interpret the works of Revolutionary Courts as signs of true Islam and Iran's anti-U.S. feelings as the feeling of all the Iranian population of Iran. That meeting took place on Jan. 10th, 1979. He further called on the U.S. to take advantage of opportunities to improve bilateral relations. On the whole, meeting Shari'atmadari at that time, was part of a carefully formulated plan to deviate the Islamic revolution of Iran from its steadfastness towards a path which paid service to U.S.-led imperialism.

Shari'atmadari Denies Link

GF231400 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 21 Apr 82

[Text] Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, who is one of the stubborn opponents of Khomeyni, has denied any links with Qotbzadeh. Hassan Shari'atmadari, the son of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, in a telephone contact with correspondents today, said: Mahdi Mahdavi-Kani, who is one of Qotbzadeh's friends, and who had a hand in the attempted coup, asked my father for his support. But my father rejected the request and told him that idea of attempting a coup is neither practical nor useful.

Shari'atmadari on Charges

NC241320 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] Ayatollah Kazem Shari'atmadari has issued a statement strongly refuting all the accusations by Khomeyni's regime against him. In his statement Ayatollah Shari'atmadari stated: I strongly refute all the accusations that have been made against me and state that all the claims made by Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the deputies of the Majlis and the clergymen are baseless. (?These people) have removed all my possibilities for self-defense because of the absence of freedom of speech.

The text of this statement was placed at the disposal of world news agencies by Hassan Shari'atmadari, the son of (?Ayatollah Shari'atmadari). It should be noted that since the commencement of attacks against Ayatollah Shari'atmadari this is the second statement he has issued in rejecting the accusations against him.

Contradications Cited

LD252216 Tehran IRNA in English 2007 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Text] Tehran, 25 Apr (IRNA) -- The prosecutor general of the Islamic Revolutionary Courts, Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Tabrizi said in Tehran today that Kazem Shari'atmadari had claimed that he had found the subversion scheme impractical and that therefore he had not believed what he had heard in relations with the scheme.

He had also said that he was not sure if the plotters really meant to implement the subversion scheme. He said the disreputed ayatollah had repeatedly contradicted himself in connection with his relation with the plot. He quoted Shari'atmadari as saying at one point that he had not divulged the plot since he thought if he had, certain innocent people might be unduly arrested.

Elsewhere he said Shari'atmadari had declared that he did not recognise it as a "religious obligation" to report the plotters, whereas still elsewhere he had said that he meant to divugle the plot but that he had not found an opportunity to do so. Musavi-Tabrizi also related incidents in connection with the attachment of Shari'atmadari to the person of the ex-shah and his regime in Iran and, citing sporadic episodes of Shari'atmadari's past life which showed his sympathetic attitude to the past regime as against the uncompromising and decisive stand of Imam Khomeyni, said that Shari'atmadari had been somehow involved in many riots against the Islamic state.

He said Shari'atmadari had claimed that he had not believed in the seriousnessess of the plotters since in his opinion the scheme was "very silly," whereas in point of act all available documents clearly showed he had endorsed the scheme. The Islamic Revolutionary Court official scoffed at this week's commentaries and biased news coverage by certain foreign broadcasts such as Radio Israel and the Voice of America and also its external Persian language service as insinuations aimed at underming the Islamic government. He said the status of "religious jurisprudence" is conferred on a member of the ulema in keeping with the canons of Islam and that when and if a religious scholar is judged unworthy of the rank bestowed on him it is the proper religious circles which are entrusted with the task of decision making and not non-Muslims, nor such sources as Radio Israel or the Voice of America.

The hojjat ol-Eslam indicated that a long time ago Kazem Shari'atmadari had requested to leave Iran and seek "a sanctuary among non-Muslims."

Asked elsewhere in the interview about the performance of the Islamic Revolutionary Courts he said the courts were rapidly processing all cases and that insofar as reports indicated, there was not one case in connection with subversive activists which was pending in the courts. He said counterrevolutionary activities had not been thoroughly arrested and that activists against the Islamic state were likely to continue with their "harrassing acts", but noted that the counterrevolutionaries would never grow to an organised current capable of overrunning the country.

He said already the sentences of 11,000 prisoners, convicted by the Islamic Revolutionary Courts; or other courts of justice, had been commuted, and that another 8,000 had been pardoned and released from prison. He said at least 3,000 of the group were members of outlawed political groups who had been either pardoned or whose sentences commuted upon Imam Khomeyni's order. He also noted that the majority of convicts had shown clear signs of moral and ethical improvement, and that many of them had talked to members of outlawed parties persuading them to renounce their former convictions. He said the literature and the public services of the convicts in prison well proved the success of the prisons in correcting the convicts and transforming them into capable and honourable citizens.

Rafsanjani Sermon

LD231356 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Excerpts] The glorious religio-political ceremonies of Friday prayers were held all over the country today and millions of our Muslim compatriots took part. Today, just like other Fridays, Tehran University witnessed great masses of revolutionary people of Tehran who took part in the Friday prayers. This long-lasting Mohammedan tradition was held under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting Friday imam of Tehran.

The acting Friday imam of Tehran, in the first prayers sermon, discussed social justice and economic affairs from the point of view of the Koran and Islam.

In connection with conspiracy to overthrow the Islamic Republic, the Friday imam of Tehran said: As far as I am aware, this matter could be classed as an act of terrorism not a coup d'etat. They had so few resources that they could not even capture a house with one guard in it. Several officers and several bankrupt politicians were thinking that they had military groups or an army at their disposal. They thought that a vast world of politicians and the nation was behind them. A triangle of a limited number of officers, bankrupt politicians -- who had failed the test badly -- and the rejected clergy formed such a weak composition that not even one shot was fired during their arrest. In my view the practical dimension of the issue was nil. We were aware 2-3 months ago and even long before that; and we did not think there was even 0.5-percent possibility that they might succeed in their preliminary work. Practically, they were nothing.

Referring to the fact that the superpowers with all their espionage and intelligence systems were not able to understand Iran, the acting Friday imam of Tehran said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] With the same calculations, they contacted individuals such as Shari'atmadari, Qotbzadeh, Manafeqi, Hejazi and others. I do not feel that I even want to talk about these individuals. Who the hell are they in society? What are they going to do? Let us suppose that we decide to leave the scene; do we all stand aside and say well, let these five of six gentlemen come and take over without any battle? Do we stand aside just like that? Can these gentlemen survive for even one day? Will the people tolerate them?

I swear to God, and this is a great oath, that Mr Khamene'i and myself were among several others who were trying to ignore Shari'atmadari. We attached no importance to this issue. We did not want to waste people's time to go and chant slogans. We regarded them as dead men. We thought it was not worth it for our youths to raise their voice against these individuals. [shouts of approval from the crowd]

Despite all our recommendations that it was not very necessary [unfinished sentence as heard] In the Majlis, the deputies confirm that I am very careful not to use the Majlis tribune for this issue, which I believe is very insignficant. Gentlemen were saying in Tabriz that the huge gathering of people in this city, the day before yesterday, was unprecedented since the start of the revolution. Well, this is the birthplace of Mr Shari'atmadari and everyone thought that he had somebody or some supporters in that city. If there was any hope for him it was there in Tabriz, not in a place like our Rafsanjan. With all these calculations, when we see such situations and things that people do in Ardabil and other places, still some individuals do not wake up. They are still sitting and thinking that there is something among these people which the enemies can exploit.

Well, I was not going to talk about this issue. I was going to say something else. The important thing that I woild like to mention is that we believe, in view of their wrong calculations, that the heart of the matter is something else. It was not what we said. Unfortunately, we were forced to talk a bit about the Shari'atmadari issue because we have to guide the people when they are excited. Otherwise, we would not have spoken about it. The Shari'atmadari issue is deep-rooted and is something other than what it appears to be.

Our friends have reported from Europe; they telephoned from Geneva yesterday and last night; they also phoned from Switzerland [as heard] and other places and said that this issue has been interpreted differently in the West. To the Western politicians, to Westerners, Mr Shari'atmadari's fall is more important than that of Bani-Sadr. Political and propaganda centers in the West behave as if they have received the coup de grace. The Westerners are like wounded wolves now and do not know what to do. They are extremely angry. [shouts of "God is the greatest"] Please, please gentlemen, keep quiet and permit me to continue.

The issue is clear to a person like me, who has been involved with various affairs for 20 years. In the den of espionage [U.S. Embassy in Tehran] there are some secrets which were not revealed in the past in order to safeguard the honor of the clergy. I ask the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, to whom this revolution owes a great deal for their exposures, to place all their information at the disposal of the people now. I ask them to divulge everything, which probably -- no, certainly -- they have and which they refused to reveal in the past for sake of the clergy. [shouts of "God is the greatest"]

Keep quiet, wait, what are you shouting for? I am going to say a lot more things like this and if you decide to approve all of them with your slogan of "God is the greatest," then you will be talking more than I. In fact, you will be reading the sermon in this case! Wait until I finish, then you can say what you like.

There is an issue -- and the Muslim students will tell you the rest of it -- and that is during one of the stages Shari'atmadari asked America for some money to move against the Islamic Republic. The Americans wanted to know his plan first. They said they should see his program first before giving any money.

The remarks that our brother Mahdavi-Kani made during his previous speech about the separation of Azarbayjan, was one corner of the issue. You know that the strategy of our enemies, the Americans, was that after the shah's departure from Iran they had arranged a major attack against us through one of the neighboring countries; that was the Iraqi war. Before this, there was the problem of Azarbayjan and what happened there. In fact, they had a plan.

Well, these days you also see what is happening. For instance, last night the Qajar prince, Mr Amini [former prime minister under the shah] sent telegrams to the master of Jordan, King Husayn, King Hassan [or Morocco], King Khaled, Husni Mubarak and their ilk, asking them to save Iran. In his cables he said: With the removal of Mr Shari'atmadari, there is no hope left for the moderate strata.

This is not a small matter. Neither the Qajar prince, nor these gentlemen who received the telegrams, nor Shari'atmadari, none of them are the roots of this issue. The problem has a very deep and extensive root. Of course, I am not saying it correctly [as heard].

They, through some miscalculation, had thought that this gentleman had 7 million followers in Iran who would pour into the streets with one spark. Well, we saw some of the 7 million in Tabriz. We hope that the enemies will understand a little bit; but they will not understand. However, the issue has been like this and I call upon our brothers and sisters not to get too excited about this affair. The matter is deep, it shows the depth of the Islamic revolution; and this is unprecedented in world history and Shi'a history that a source of imitation ends up like this for standing against the people. A person who has published an epistle and has distributed it among the people, and a person who has invited people to pray by his religious verdict; people have said prayers with his verdict, they have got married, given donations, etc, etc; such a person has ended up like this. He has lost his esteem in people's hearts so easily. This is because of his challenge to God, the Koran and his standing against the blood of our martyrs.

This shows the greatness of the revolution. This shows the depth and value of the revolution to see that a person such as Shari'atmadari can end this way.

In the past we said that Shari'atmadari had such devoted friends that they would follow him even if he hoisted the flag of blasphemy. This interpretation was often made about him, meaning that his supporters were fanatical. Now he is begging and asking our guards to stand in front of his house to stop people pouring in to kill him.

This shows the value and depth of the revolution. You should attach importance to this issue only. Let others decide for themselves. [end recording]

Mahdavi-Kani Speech

LD231238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani made a speech prior to the Friday sermons in Tehran.

Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani said: Two months before the victory of the revolution, when the imam was in Paris, I went to see one of these gentlemen [presumably Shari'atmadari] over an issue. He told me: As you are close to the imam take my message to him and tell him that we have reached a position that the imperial government has submitted to us and is saying that they will obey whatever we tell them.

He said: Moqaddam, the head of SAVAK, has telephoned me, saying: We are completely at your disposal and will obey whatever you order us to do. Therefore, what else do we wish to gain? Let Moqaddam remain at the head of SAVAK but be under our control. Let Hoveyda and Bakhtiar remain in their posts [as heard] but under our control. He said: We the clergy cannot govern. We do not have the capability of doing such things. Let them govern. In that case, we can claim all the good things they do but they will have all the blame for what goes wrong.

How naive and compromising could one be to be satisfied with this? Such a way of thinking, after the revolution, goes against the Islamic Republic and smacks of aspirations of leadership. Now he wishes to establish a true Islamic Republic.

Further on in his speech, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani said: One day, when I was received by the imam over the issue of Azarbayjan, I suggested that I go to Mr Shari'atmadari and persuade him to say that those who had occupied the radio and television station in Tabriz should leave the premises. The imam said: I have no faith in Shari'atmadari, but in order for you to be convinced of this go and talk to him. I went to see him. He said: The Friday imam of Tabriz, the late Ayatollah Madani, should be dismissed. He intended to remove someone who was confronting the counterrevolutionaries in Azarbayjan. This was a lesson which even Shari'atmadari did not know who was dictating it to him from behind the veil. He also said: Governor General Gharavi should be removed and should be replaced by Moqaddam Maraghe'i. Also, the [then] prosecutor of Tabriz, Mr Musavi, should also be dismissed. He also demanded that Fatemi [name as heard], who was also confronting the counterrevolutionaries, should be removed. The Guards Corps should also withdraw. We told him that if you wish the removal of the governor general, we might remove him for your sake. Then, it was decided that Shari'atmadari would go and write something to this effect.

Mr Mahdavi-Kani said: I do not wish to refer to the recent issue and this is something which should be judged by the court, deciding who is guilty and who is not guilty. You people also know your duty. However, I do urge you not to take excessive measures. What is important to me is that I should reveal Shari'atmadari's true features to all Muslims.

He went to a room and consulted his advisers, one of whom was Hassan, his son, who is a fugitive, and the other one was Jurabchi, who was executed. He came back and said: I have written something which I wish to read. Tell the radio and television to come. I also told the radio and television to come. He started to read: Both East and West Azarbayjan should be under my control and I should be in charge of appointing or dismissing all t e officials.

We told him: Sir, we cannot agree to such a thing. Do you wish to separate Azarbayjan from Iran? Do we have two governments?

He replied: This is all I can do, and there will be nothing else.

Perhaps this gentleman was not himself aware of the real intentions of those who dictated this separation to him. They wished to set up a separate government in which there were no guards, Ayatollah Madani, brother Musavi, nor the governor general of the Islamic Republic, so that they could start an autonomous government there; and later destroy the foundations of the Islamic Republic. They wished to separate Azarbayjan from Islam and from the Islamic Republic. Azarbayjan has always been the head and the leading part of our country and which has been the forerunner in all the revolutions.

RAFSANJANI ON 'RIGHT TO BESIEGE BAGHDAD'

LD231744 Tehran IRNA in English 1553 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] Tehran, 23 Apr (IRNA) -- Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani today warned again that if Iran's terms for peace were not accepted by the Iraqi rulers, "we will give ourselves the right to besiege Baghdad."

Speaking to thousands of Muslim worshippers attending the Friday prayers in Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani noted that the Islamic Republic, in any war victory it achieved, gave Saddam and the Iraqi rulers the opportunity to mediate. In other words, added the Majlis speaker, "we gave them the ultimatum, while at the same time we also welcomed any peace mediation."

Instead of taking advantage of these chances given to them by the Islamic Republic and thus surrendering to Iran's rightful stands, the Iraqis were thinking that Iran had some difficulty with the war, said Rafsanjani, who further added that "we do not want Iranian and Iraqi troops to be killed, and Saddam is lying when he says that he is seeking peace." Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani added that Saddam was seeking concessions to be given to him by the Islamic Republic, so that he could at least tell his nation that the war was not fruitless for Iraq. Another regrettable point which the Majlis speaker referred to in his sermons, was the concern of the peace missions for solving Saddam's future.

Continuing his remarks in this connection, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) said that if Saddam unconditionally withdrew from Iranian territory, withdrew his claims over the Arvand Rud waterway, received back the Iraqi deportees, and paid war reparations, then he would collapse, something which the Majlis speaker said Iran would not undertake [words indistinct]. The SDC spokesman, however, assured the Iraqi people that the Iranian Army would not enter Iraqi cities, and he further pointed out that the people of Iraq were the owners of their own revolution and thus should run their country themselves. Rafsanjani said that it would not be at all difficult for the Islamic combatants of Iran, who liberated 50 kms of Iranian lands by routing four Iraqi divisions, to advance some 200 kms more from Qasr-e Shirin (an occupied Iranian border town) to Baghdad. Nevertheless, said Rafsanjani, the Islamic Republic wanted to prove once again to the world its good intentions, by declaring that it did not aim at entering Iraqi territory to gain its rights, but instead preferred to be given these rights through the fulfillment of its terms for an honourable peace.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani also warned the Zionist regime and the U.S. not to try in vain, through pretensions, to dissuade the Islamic Republic from continuing the imposed war. He stressed that Iran had, indeed, the strength to fight both in the Iraqi imposed warfronts and in the battlefields of Palestine, against the Zionist usurper.

Rafsanjani emphasised that the danger of Saddam was not less than that of the Jerusalem-occupying regime, and said that both of them should be done away with. "Saddam is an Israel in the Persian Gulf, and Israel is a Saddam in the Middle East; and they should both be done away with so that the Muslim nations and Iran can enjoy tranquillity."

In conclusion of the Friday prayers in Tehran, the worshippers shouted slogans in condemnation of the recent Zionist air raid on Lebanon as well as the U.S. designs in Iran, including the recently foiled coup attempt, and asked for a speedy trial of the coup agents.

RAFSANJANI URGES ISRAEL'S EXPULSION FROM UN

LD251158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Unidentified correspondent's report on 25 April Majlis session]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Today's open session of the Majlis began with recitations from the holy Koran and was chaired by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The speaker of the Islamic Majlis said: On behalf of the Islamic Majlis I congratulate the hidden imam, may God speed his coming, and the imam of the nation, the leader of the revolution, and all the revolutionary and Muslim people on the birthday of the fifth imam.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said: Today an issue is being discussed on the international level which I think can be a turning point in the sociopolitical history of the world. Obviously, the Islamic Majlis is bound to announce its stance in this respect.

This issue is the proposal put forward by the revolutionary country of Syria that the usurper Israel be thrown out of the United Nations. This is an important issue and all [words indistinct] and liberation seekers of the world should support this proposal.

The United States has threatened that if Israel leaves the United Nations then this organization will disintegrate. The Majlis speaker added: I do not know whether or not this threat will be fulfilled, but if it is fulfilled it will constitute another positive point in this struggle. It will still be an important development even if it is not fulfilled.

Today, there are enough votes against Israel, because of its refusal to heed UN ratifications, to force it to leave.

I hope to God the United States will fulfill this threat and this organization will disintegrate. If that were the case, the free nations of the world would get together and form an organization which would have no country acting as the guardian of others, a real union of nations. In that case we could be sure that there would be a place where the rights of nations could be restored and complaints of the free nations of the world could be heard.

If a country like the United States can veto the decision made by the United Nations, as you heard, to condemn the bombing of a small country like Lebanon by a usurping aggressor using 60 planes, nothing can be said for that organization and it has no value whatsoever.

Therefore, we deputies of the Islamic Majlis support the proposal put forward by the Syrian Government with all our hearts and we ask all the liberation movements of the world to stand by this fundamental proposal.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENOUNCES U.S. 'THREAT' TO UN

GF251034 Abadan NIOC Radio in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that the continuing unjustified support offered by the United States to the Zionist entity is clear evidence of the U.S. subordination to international Zionism and to the Zionist wing ruling the United States.

This came in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry following the U.S. announcement that it will stop all aid to the United Nations if the Zionist entity is expelled from the organization.

The statement of the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry added that by benefiting from the right to veto and by making threats, the United States has confirmed that it is in captivity and under the control of Zionism and that it possesses no intrinsic strength whatever. It is unable to commit itself to international law and is not even able to pretend to do so.

The statement stressed that this kind of support, which has become more obvious in recent days, and its relationship with the Zionist entity are evidence of the lack of U.S. logic in supporting the Zionist entity. They are also a clear indication of the dominance of the language of force in international relations, especially between the superpowers and oppressed nations and those states that have shown interest in the Palestinian problem and expressed opposition to the policies of the Zionist entity.

The statement of the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry added that such moves are generally in the interest of the oppressed for the following reasons:

1. U.S. hegemony in the United Nations indicates clearly how weak and ineffectual this organization is.

2. The United States appears weak and ineffectual before world public opinion because it is being dragged to such stands and being forced to disrespect human and legal norms.

The Foreign Ministry statement stressed that such stands will eventually result in the general uprising of all nations against the Zionist entity. The statement added that the Islamic nations, with the weapon of "There is no god but God" and with the help of divine power, can be optimistic that they will liberate Jerusalem, rescue the territories under Israeli domination from the wretched situation they are experiencing and hold prayers for all the Muslim nations in Jerusalem.

JOINT STAFF STATEMENT ON TABAS ANNIVERSARY

LD241236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a statement marking the anniversary of the U.S. military attack on Tabas.

The statement says: The Tabas incident is a permanent reality of divine mercy and a reiteration of God's supreme power. The Tabas incident is a lesson to the world devourers, who even with the aid of the most sophisticated weapons and satanical guile, could not defeat the revolution which has come to this land through the grace of God and which daily expands and grows in strength. It will not be long before the decline and destruction of the arrogant forces in the world, particularly the criminal United States. It will not be long before the banner of monotheism will be carried aloft by the weak.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 864-866

864: 23 Apr Report

LD231738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Communique 864 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear Muslim compatriots of Iran: The powerful and victorious combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on enemy positions on the southern fronts and, while maintaining their complete supremacy over the Saddamist forces, inflicted damages and casualties on the enemy and hindered its movements.

On the Abadan fronts, where an exchange of fire was going on, the gendarmerie warriors opened heavy-weapon fire and destroyed an 82-mm mortar and several weapons positions belonging to the enemy. In coordination with the fire of the ground forces' artillery, our warriors opened fire on the Al-Faw-Basrah supply route and disrupted the enemy's delivery activities. The city of Abadan came under the enemy's long-range artillery fire, which resulted in damages and casualties.

The combatants of the ground forces on the Salehabad front destroyed two artillery positions, several military vehicles and an ammunition depot and killed a number of Saddamist soldiers with artillery fire.

On the Sumar front, our forces destroyed several military [words indistinct] and killed some enemy soldiers.

In Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, our forces silenced the enemy fire and inflicted some damages on them.

On the Gilan-e Gharb front, the powerful combatants of the ground forces set fire to a fuel tanker belonging to the enemy and damaged a second one. Several supply and logistic points belonging to the Iraqi forces were also destroyed.

The gendarmerie warriors in the Shur-e Shirin region set fire to an enemy ammunition depot and destroyed it.

The combatants of the ground forces on the Paveh front opened fire on enemy positions around Toveyleh, Halabcheh and (Suskan) and succeeded in destroying several supply points and a command post of the Iraqi forces, controlled their supply route to several other areas and stopped enemy traffic along that road.

Yesterday the heroes of the antiaircraft units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran foiled all enemy air incursions and forced the aircraft to flee.

865: 24 Apr Report

LD241742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Communique 865 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday the combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened artillery fire on enemy positions in Sumar, destroying four vehicles and setting fire to a quantity of ammunition belonging to the aggressors.

In the Meymak region, our forces destroyed several enemy supply points. The courageous combatants of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on enemy positions and destroyed two observation posts and several combat units of the aggressors, killing and wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers in Band-e Kabud region.

On the Marvian fronts, exchanges of fire continued. Our forces fired on an enemy motorized column travelling on Biarreh road, stopping it and inflicting damages and losses.

In the (Hargineh) region, our artillery units' fire completely destroyed several military buildings, a number of heavy vehicles, a command post and a communication tower and killed a large number of the enemies of Islam. Moreover, the artillery and mortar fire of our forces on enemy positions in Toveyleh and (Hushni-y Bala) destroyed two command posts and several combat units of the Saddamists.

Yesterday, at one of the border points in the west, eight Iraqi Muslims reported to the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and asked for asylum. They were welcomed.

During the past 24 hours on most of the southern fronts our forces consolidated their positions, opened heavy-weapon fire on enemy units and carried out surprise attacks and patrol operations, inflicting damages and losses on enemy forces. The fire of our brave navy personnel on enemy positions in the occupied part of Khorramshahr and beyond Arvand Rud destroyed two trenches and two observation posts of Saddamist forces and killed a number of them.

Yesterday a few Iraqi planes violated the airspace of several southern and western towns and several operational locations. They were confronted with the antiaircraft fire and were forced to flee.

866: 25 Apr Report

LD251716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Communique 866 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear Muslim compatriots: With congratulations on the auspicious birthday of the fifth jewel of the imamate, His Excellency Imam Mohammad Baqer, peace be upon him, some of the operations and self-sacrifices of the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the conditions on the fronts of the battles between right and wrong are brought to your attention.

The combatants of the ground forces on the Salehabad, Sumar, Gilan-e Gharb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts brought enemy positions under artillery fire, destroying a number of supply points, five trucks and a number of the positions of the Iraqi forces. On each of the fronts a number of the Iraqi forces were killed or wounded. According to reports received, the number of enemy personnel killed on the Gilan-e Gharb front was more than 30.

On the Marivan front, all enemy movements and operations were controlled and brought under fire by our forces.

On the Ilam fronts, the gendarmerie combatants returned enemy fire and silenced it, destroying six supply points, three observation posts and one ammunition dump of the Saddamists. They also killed and wounded a number of enemy personnel.

Also, in the Band-e Kabud sector, they destroyed three enemy trenches together with their crews.

On the southern fronts, exchange of artillery and heavy-artillery fire of the Iranian Ground Forces disrupted enemy supply movements and traffic on the Al-Faw Basrah road and halted any form of enemy movement.

During exchanges of fire on the Abadan fronts, the gendarmerie combatants brought enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud under fire, destroying four heavy-weapon emplacements and one ammunition dump and [words indistinct] a number of them.

Yesterday residential areas of Abadan came under enemy heavy-weapon fire. A number of houses were damaged and a number of our dear Abadani compatriots were martyred and wounded.

GUARDS CORPS REPORTS SUCCESSES IN KORDESTAN

LD252218 Tehran IRNA in English 2002 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Text] Bakhtaran, 25 Apr (IRNA) -- The 120-km-long Kamyaran-Marivan highway, as well as 22 villages along the highway (all in Kordestan Province), have been completely purged of counterrevolutionary elements, by Islamic revolutionary guards, in the course of a two-week operation.

IRNA reports from Gazor Khani, one of the liberated villages, which was until three nights ago under the occupation of armed counterrevolutionaries, indicated that considerable losses have been inflicted upon the outlaws. A number of vehicles, including four bull-dozers and four army vehicles were seized from the armed bandits.

During the operation, the havaniruz (air support for the ground force) helicopters backed the revolutionary guards. Among the important heights purged of counterrevolutionaries during the operations, were Shirn Savar and Tihel Kuh, according to a revolutionary guard quoted by IRNA reporters.

In another development on Saturday, fifty armed insurgents were killed, 14 were taken captive and a number of others were wounded, when their positions in one of the areas of Kordestan came under the fire of the Islamic combatants.

Meanwhile, a group of counterrevolutionaries who intended to [word indistinct] the Kolteh bridge on the Baneh-Sar Dasht (in the west of the country) highway, were arrested, with some TNT and other explosives, and were handed over to authorities.

Baneh-Sar Dasht Axis 'Cleared'

LD231725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Apr 82

[23 April statement issued by the Central Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Public Relations Office]

[Excerpt] The able army of Islam, consisting of valiants of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces, forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps -- both selfless guards and the corps' Mobilization combatants -- gendarmerie valiants and the Muslim revolutionary Kurds, has continued its operations in the west. Today it completely cleared all armed insurgents from the strategic Baneh-Sar Dasht axis, liberating this region which had been in the hands of counterrevolutionaries.

During these victorious operations, codenamed Answar Allah, which were conducted at 0400 today, combatants of Islam were stationed in the strategic heights of (Dar Savi) and (Jaturabi).

They managed to clear more than 32 villages in the Baneh-Sar Dasht region, killing or wounding at least 150 counterrevolutionaries. Thus, the 60-mile-long Baneh-Sar Dasht axis was liberated and placed under the control of Islamic forces. Arms and ammunition supplied to the counterrevolutionaries by the American Saddam and other world oppressor mercenary elements were seized.

RAJAVI NAMES NEW MOJAHEDIN SECOND IN COMMAND

NC231544 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] A Free Voice of Iran correspondent has reported that Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, has officially announced in a statement that engineer 'Ali Zarkesh has been chosen to lead the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization in Iran. In this statement Rajavi has called on the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization members to obey Zarkesh's orders. Engineer 'Ali Zarkesh, who is 33-years old, spent 7 years in the past regime's prison, and was assigned to this position after the death of Musa Khiabani, who was second in command in the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization of Iran.